

REMARKS

The Examiner raises formal objections to claim 7, which has been addressed by the foregoing amendment.

The claims have been rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of Sekine and JP '495.

The claims have been further amended to include the limitation "substantially exclusively" to distinguish the present invention further from the dual-action shock absorbers which have been cited against this invention. None of the cited references are designed to damp mainly in the compression or the expansion stroke. None of them could be modified to be combined with each other to result in the presently claimed invention.

The passage 19a of the cited reference USP 5,797,594 is not a volume compensating oil passage. The oil going from the cylinder 8 to the back-side of the check valve 19b is just a very small amount of oil which leaks from the side of the cylinder 8 to the side of the check valve 19b by adhering ~~on~~ to the rod 18 when the rod 18 slides in a bush of the rod guide 19.

This oil differs from that which is pushed out from the cylinder 8 to the back-side of the check valve 19b at the amount of the volume of the rod 18 inserted into the cylinder 8. That is, the oil going through the passage 19a to the chamber 10 by opening of the check valve 19b does not compensate for the volume of the insertion of the rod 18. This means that the passage 19a is not a volume compensating oil passage.

Even if the passage 19a of the cited reference USP 5,797,594 were a volume compensating oil passage, it is a volume compensating passage only for the compression, since the check valve 19b allows only the oil flow from the inside of the cylinder 8 to the chamber 10. The passage 19a interrupts the oil flow from the chamber 10 to the cylinder 8 by the existence of the check valve 19b, and it does not consist of a volume compensating oil passage for the expansion.

By using a volume compensating oil passage in common for both of the compression and the expansion of the piston rod, the construction of the hydraulic shock absorber can be made simple.

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Respectfully submitted,

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